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Young Women's Christian  
Association of the U.S.A.

How may college women  
be found for volunteer...

[New York]

[1913]

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How May College  
Women be Found for  
Volunteer Service?

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Box 130

Published by  
National Board of the  
Young Women's Christian Associations  
of the United States of America  
600 Lexington Avenue  
New York  
1913

Sept. 12, 1913, 1913

## How May College Women be Found for Volunteer Service?

All active college graduates are eager for service.

All social, philanthropic and religious organizations are looking for volunteer workers.

In spite of all the agencies for training workers, many volunteers will be needed for years to come in order to carry forward the great work in the world for which women are peculiarly fitted. In fact, volunteers will always be needed.

### *One method of solving the problem*

The National Board of the Young Women's Christian Associations has, under the direction of its secretary for alumnae work, been taking a record, with the approval of the college and school authorities, of the senior girls of several of the largest women's colleges and schools. This has been irrespective of the girl's relation to the local student Young Women's Christian Association. Its object is to give these young women an opportunity to register, not only their home addresses, but the active interests which they are willing to develop further for the benefit of their respective home com-

munities. The selection of the fields of activity is left entirely to the girls themselves, and the National Board office, 600 Lexington Avenue, New York City, becomes a medium through which the other agencies for social betterment in this country may be reached. This is accomplished by the passing on of classified lists, giving the name and other information concerning these would-be volunteer workers to those who represent the various movements, trusting that their representatives, who are so eager to find able volunteers, will be glad to look up these young women and among their number find valuable workers. Already splendid co-operation and great appreciation have been expressed by the various Church Mission Boards, the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ, local churches and Young Women's Christian Associations, the several Schools of Philanthropy, united charity organizations, and other agencies for social betterment.

*Reasons why one agency such as the Young Women's Christian Association can perform this service effectively*

1. First of all, it reduces the number of appeals for record-taking which are constantly being made to the senior classes of our colleges. Too great a variety of appeals for workers not only confuses the minds of the students, but also consumes more time than any off-campus interests should demand.

2. Second, it encourages the really well-qualified speakers to present their causes to the college community for serious consideration, relieving them of the necessity of personally securing the names of their followers and allowing them to give their entire time while on the campus to the main issues involved.

3. Third, it calls the attention of the young women to the advisability of hearing presented several causes which in themselves make an appeal to every normal girl, before making a definite selection of their work. They are thus prevented from making unwise selection because of some temporary enthusiasm.

4. Fourth, as this record is seeking to assist the volunteer rather than the paid worker to find her place, it tends to make the choice of an avocation a matter for real consideration, emphasizing the fact that the obligations of the volunteer worker should be as faithfully kept as those of the paid worker. This will in itself point the way to the training of efficient volunteers.

5. Fifth, as soon as the various agencies have through experience gained confidence in the taking of the record, it will relieve them of duplication of effort. The Young Women's Christian Association already has the entree, as well as organized groups, in all of the more important colleges of the country which are prepared to assist in this work. Therefore, as it already occupies the field, it is exceedingly easy for the Association to render this service.

*What the records of 1911-1912 show*

	1911	1912
Total number institutions in which record was taken . . . . .	27	48
Total number registrations . . . . .	859	1339
Total number of choices made . . . . .	1508	2831
(Many girls naming several alternatives)		
Distributed among the following forms of service:		
Sunday school work . . . . .	311	679
Church work, other than Sunday school . . . . .	201	480
	512	1159
Social and philanthropic work . . . . .	583	561
Young Women's Christian Association work . . . . .	175	295
Women's clubs and granges . . . . .	103	238
Missions:		
Home . . . . .	55	298
Foreign . . . . .	80	280
	135	578
Total number having had some form of experience . . . . .	428	722
Religious affiliations represented:		
	1911	1912
Presbyterian . . . . .	159	266
Episcopalian . . . . .	143	170
Methodist . . . . .	93	485
Congregationalist . . . . .	90	316
Baptist . . . . .	50	320
Roman Catholic . . . . .	23	32
Dutch Reformed . . . . .	13	12
Jewish . . . . .	13	16
Lutheran . . . . .	11	24
Unitarian . . . . .	10	20

Religious affiliations represented:

	1911	1912
Friends . . . . .	10	14
Christian Scientist . . . . .	5	8
Christian . . . . .	3	4
Universalist . . . . .	3	8
German Reformed Protestant . . . . .	1	4
Evangelical . . . . .	1	6
Swedenborgian . . . . .	1	1
Church of Puritans . . . . .	1	0
United Brethren . . . . .	0	2
Moravian . . . . .	0	3
United Presbyterian . . . . .	0	1
Church of God . . . . .	0	1

The states in which records were taken in 1911 were: New England, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Washington, D.C.

The states in which records were taken in 1912 were: Arkansas, California, Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, and Washington, D. C.

*Are these experienced workers?*

428 young women in 1911 and 722 in 1912 have already had some experience, thus showing that about fifty per cent of them have even in undergraduate days begun active service.

*Has the Young Women's Christian Association college work diverted the girls from work in the churches of their own denomination?*

The record shows:	1911	1912
Sunday school work . . . . .	311	679
Church work other than Sunday school . . . . .	201	480
Home missions . . . . .	55	298
Foreign missions . . . . .	80	280
Total number including choice of church work . . . . .	647	1737

*Where are these young women now ready to serve as volunteers?*

In 1911, 817 girls scattered into 443 different towns and cities; in 1912, 1,277 girls scattered into 802 towns and cities distributed through every state in the Union. Young college men seek the large cities for employment. The majority of women graduates go back to the home town or perhaps to an even smaller one to teach in the village school, and at once are in positions calling for social training and experience. How heartily these girls, who have had successful mission study classes in college or experience in playground or people's institute work, should be welcomed by the local pastors! The elder women on the local boards of charitable or philanthropic societies are glad to find new recruits in these enthusiastic young leaders. How quickly social betterment should be accomplished with the assistance of these girls of broad vision and earnest enthusiasm!

*How many of those registered are actually at work?*

This cannot be answered statistically, for where the work is found or the organization secures the worker, any thought of return records is usually forgotten. However, the fact that the correspondence contains many requests, such as, "May we receive lists next year, and how early may we expect them?" seems to indicate that they are appreciated and found useful.

Over fifty per cent of the girls registered in 1911 have voluntarily reported and have given satisfactory record of work accomplished.

*Is this record-taking appreciated by those whom we would serve?*

We do know of many instances of real appreciation, even if not expressed numerically. One pastor writes: "Miss S. is teaching in the Sunday school and has a splendid class which is happy under her leadership." An Association secretary writes: "Our problem of how to do the work with the meager funds at our command is being solved. Miss W. has volunteered to do the work and comes regularly." Miss J. writes: "You gave us the name of Miss M. as one who might help us in our work. In response to an invitation from us she consented to take charge of the pageant and has proved to be a most efficient leader." Thus the "perfectly good college graduate with nothing to do" is finding the place she needs and the work which needs her.

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